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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST
OFFICE OF THE THEATRE SURGEON

APO 501
16 June 1945

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 20

ISSUE AND REPAIR OF SPECTACLES, COMMERCIAL
TYPE AND EYEGLASS, GAS MASK M-1

Note: This circular rescinds all previous instructions of this headquarters covering the issue and repair of spectacles by Army Optical Units.

SECTION I

SPECTACLES, COMMERCIAL TYPE

1. Personnel authorized initial issue of spectacles, commercial type, at government expense:

- a. Officers, Warrant Officers, and Enlisted Men of the United States Army, Philippine Scouts, Army Nurses, personnel of the Women's Army Corps, and other militarized female personnel of the Army.
- b. Prisoners (United States Army personnel) in Military Custody.
- c. Members of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, in the Service of the armed forces.
- d. Military personnel of all co-belligerent countries who cannot reasonably obtain spectacles from facilities of their own countries. (Reasonable judgement will be exercised by prescribing officers in determining the availability of facilities for personnel in this category. Decision as to whether or not such personnel are authorized to receive spectacles should not be arbitrary, nor should it be such as to encourage abuses).
- e. Prisoners of War and Interned Civilian Enemy Aliens.
- f. Military personnel of the United States Navy who cannot reasonably obtain spectacles from Naval facilities.
- g. Recovered citizens of the United States who were prisoners of the enemy.

2. By whom issued: Initial issue will be accomplished through the ENT Clinics of hospitals and dispensaries.

3. Basis of issue:

- a. Personnel who require a correction of more than one diopter in any meridian in either eye.
- b. Personnel who, in the opinion of the prescribing officer, require spectacles for the efficient performance of their military duties regardless of their correction. (Prescribing officers are urged to exercise careful judgment as to the actual need when prescribing for corrections of one diopter or less in the worst meridian as it has been found, in the case of minor corrections, that the spectacles frequently are not worn.)

4. Initial issue:

- a. Will be made to authorized personnel in the amount of two pair of spectacles with the following exceptions:
 - (1) Prisoners of War and Civilian Enemy Aliens will be issued only one pair each.
 - (2) In special cases where individuals are performing unusually close work for which bifocals are not adapted, the number of pairs of spectacles to be issued will be determined by the prescribing officer.

5. Type of Spectacles Issued:

- a. Spectacles, commercial type, issued to authorized personnel will be of the standard government issue with metal rims and temples. Issue of rimless or tinted lenses is not authorized. Specially shaped lenses will not be supplied unless necessary to utilize an individual's serviceable spectacle frame.

6. Procedure for requisitioning and the distributing spectacles:

- a. Personnel in need of spectacles, will request their Commanding Officer to complete the certificate in duplicate as shown below (one copy of this form will be forwarded with Spectacle Order Form #130 to Optical Repair Unit).

* * * * *

ORGANIZATION AND APO

CERTIFICATE

DATE.....

This is to certify that (Name)

(Rank) (ASN)

- (a) Has never been issued G.I. Spectacles or Eyeglasses, Gas Mask, M-1. (Check type being requested).
- (b) Has been issued (No. of pairs G.I. Spectacles) _____ but the issues and/or frames are unsatisfactory.
- (c) Has been issued pair of Eyeglasses, Gas Mask, M-1, but they are unsatisfactory.
- (d) Has been issued (No. of pairs) _____ G.I. Spectacles and these were lost/broken in line of duty.
- (e) Has been issued pair of Eyeglasses, Gas Mask, M-1, and these were lost/broken in line of duty.

Signature and rank of responsible officer:

* * * * *

- b. Issuing authorities (par. 2) will initiate Spectacle Order Form #130 and forward same to the nearest United States Army, Optical Repair Unit. (When in doubt as to location consult the Base Surgeon).

"SPECTACLE ORDER FORM #130 MODIFIED"

DATE

TO: OPTICAL SECTION, U. S. ARMY, BASE _____ APO _____

<u>(FULL NAME OF INDIVIDUAL)</u>		<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>AGE</u>	
<u>Pupillary Distance</u>	<u>Bridge No.</u>	<u>Temple Length</u>	<u>Eye Size</u>		
<u>SPH.</u>	<u>CYL.</u>	<u>AXIS</u>	<u>PRISM</u>	<u>BASE</u>	<u>DEC.</u>
<u>DISTANCE</u>					
<u>R</u>					
<u>L</u>					
<u>Add</u>					
<u>R</u>					
<u>L</u>					

Repairs

Case

Station

(Signature)

Date

(Rank and Organization)

* * * * *

- c. This form is to be prepared in duplicate and each copy signed.
- d. The certificate on the reverse side will be made out in duplicate and both copies signed.
 - (1) Prescriptions issued under provisions of paragraph 3b, that is, those providing for corrections of one diopter or less in the worst meridian, are to be accompanied by a brief and concise statement signed by the prescribing officer giving the reason, in his opinion, that the correction is needed. This statement may be incorporated in the prescription order form.
 - (2) In the absence of the signed certificate of need, such prescription orders will be returned by the Optical Repair Unit for correction of this deficiency.
- e. Spectacles will be returned to the hospital or dispensary which originated the prescription order, where they will be properly fitted and adjusted to the individual. In instances where the individual has already proceeded to another station, the spectacles will be forwarded promptly to a hospital or dispensary at the new station where necessary adjustments may be made. Hospitals and dispensaries which are without Medical Item No. 3627500, Case, Spectacle, Fitting and Repair, should requisition this immediately to facilitate the measuring, fitting and adjusting operations. If not authorized, requisition in compliance with USAFFE Regulation 20-10, dated 16 November 1944.

REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF SPECTACLES, COMMERCIAL TYPE

7. Personnel authorized repair and/or replacement:

- a. As outlined in paragraph 1.
- b. Red Cross workers on military missions overseas requiring spectacles for the performance of their duties.
- c. Civilian employees of the War Department on military

missions overseas, requiring spectacles for the performance of their duties, including:

- (1) American and other civilian employees of the War Department who accompanied the Army overseas.
- (2) Australian civilian employees of the United States Army who are on duty outside the continental limits of Australia. (Australian civilian employees in Australia are not authorized repair or replacement of spectacles.)

8. By whom repaired:

- a. United States Army Optical Repair Unit in closest proximity to the installation requiring said services.

9. Type of repair:

- a. Broken lenses will be replaced in the individual's frame provided such frame is of durable construction with rims and temples. Decision as to whether or not frames are durable rests with the Commanding Officer of the Optical Repair Unit making the repair or replacement. If the frame is not considered durable, new standard government issue type spectacles will be issued.

10. Procedure for Repairing and/or Replacing Spectacles, Commercial Type:

- a. See paragraph 6 as it applies.
- b. All broken spectacles regardless of extent of breakage will be forwarded with Spectacle Order Form WDMD No. 130 to the Optical Repair Section, where it will be determined by the Optical Officer whether spectacles can be repaired or complete new spectacles furnished.
- c. When there is a change in prescription the refracting officer will forward the old spectacles with the Spectacle Order Form and Certificate.

SECTION II

EYEGLASS, GAS MASK M-1

11. Personnel authorized initial issue repair and/or replacement of Eyeglass, Gas Mask M-1, at government expense:

- a. Limitations paragraph 1, Section I

(*Note: All personnel concerned must have a gas mask of United States Army type only).

12. By whom issued: See paragraph 2, Section I.

13. Basis of Issue:

- a. This item is the only visual correction device issued for use with the gas mask.
- b. Eyeglass, Gas Mask M-1 may be issued to all authorized personnel who have uncorrected visual acuity of 20/70 or less, binocular (both eyes open).

14. Initial issue: One pair.

15. Type of Eyeglass, Gas Mask M-1 issued:

- a. Eyeglass type replaces the former spectacles, gas mask type, which were found impracticable for use with the gas mask.
- b. Government issue of other types of conventional spectacles will not be used in conjunction with the gas mask, test having determined that in numerous instances the temple pieces interfere with the requisite gas-tight seal resulting in gas leakage.

16. Procedure for requisitioning and distributing Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1:

- a. The same prescription order forms as referred to in paragraph 6, Section I, are to be used.
- b. This form must clearly indicate that Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, is requested and the lettered position required must be shown.
- c. Wherever feasible, as in the case of tactical units, divisions, etc., the screening of spectacle wearers will be accomplished by Unit Medical Officers to insure that only authorized personnel reach hospitals and dispensaries.
- d. The appearance at hospitals and dispensaries of individuals authorized to receive said eyeglass, will be coordinated with hospital commanders to avoid undue delay and congestion at the clinics.
- e. It is necessary that the individual have with him a properly fitted gas mask at the time the Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, is prescribed and also at the time of final fitting. The cooperation of Unit Chemical Warfare Service Officers should be obtained to insure that authorized personnel have masks with properly fitted face-pieces, not only from the standpoint of gas tightness but field of vision as well.

(1) Many individuals have been observed wearing gas masks in which the direct line of vision is so

near the extremity of the Gas Mask Eye-Piece that the slightest tilting of the wearer's head results in a partially obscured line of vision. These individuals will be returned to their units for new masks.

- f. In all instances where individuals are authorized to receive the Eyeglass, Gas Mask M-1, the correction will be furnished both eyes and never for only the eye with the worst vision, despite the fact that the Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, is furnished in individual devices for each eye.
- g. Hospitals and dispensaries which are without medical item 9354000, Case, Fitting, Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, (this case contains a manual of instructions for the prescribing and fitting of this type eyeglass) should requisition this item immediately to facilitate the measuring, fitting and adjusting operations. (If in excess of T/E requisition in accordance with provisions of USAFFE Regulation 20-10, 16 November 1944).
 - (1) It is essential that the fitting case be available and that the manual be thoroughly studied before said glass can be properly prescribed and fitted.
 - (2) Personnel should not be sent to a hospital or dispensary where this case is not available.

SECTION III

PERMANENT RECORD OF PRESCRIPTION DATA FOR SPECTACLES COMMERCIAL TYPE AND EYEGLASS, GAS MASK, M-1

- 17. a. In order to facilitate the repair and replacement of lost or broken lenses and frames and to avoid new refractions of eyes each time such repair and/or replacement becomes necessary, Paragraph 27, C-17, AR 345-125; and Paragraph 4b, C-22, AR 345-125 require that a permanent record be made of prescription data for both Spectacles, Commercial Type, Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, this information to be entered in the case of officers on WD AGO Form No. 8-117, and in the case of enlisted personnel, on page 15, WD AGO Form No. 24 (Service Record). It has also been required that a copy of the prescription and frame data for Spectacles, Commercial Type and Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, will be given the individual concerned with instructions to keep this copy on his person at all times.
- b. Reports indicate that in numerous instances involving individuals previously furnished Spectacles, Commercial Type; and/or Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, the pertinent prescription data is not available either on the Immunization Register or Service Record, or in the possession of the individual concerned.

c. Effective immediately and except in very unusual cases where not feasible, the procedure set forth below will be observed in instances where prescription data is not available at the time repair and/or replacement is needed and in cases involving new or initial refractions of eyes.

(1) For spectacles, commercial type, the following data will be made a part of the records referred to in Section III, Paragraph 1, above:

(a) When an individual is examined and the opinion of the prescribing officer, spectacles, commercial type, are not required, entry will be made showing date of examination and stating that spectacles are not necessary for the efficient performance of military duty.

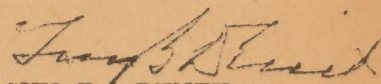
(b) If, after examination, it is found that spectacles are necessary, the following entries will be made:

1. Date and place of refraction.
2. Visual acuity of each eye and visual acuity, binocular, with and without correction.
3. Correction required for each eye.
4. Frame size.
5. Date spectacles ordered and date issued.
6. Number of pairs of spectacles issued to the individual at the particular time.

(c) The following data will be made a part of such records in the case of Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1:

1. Correction required for each eye.
2. Lettered position of Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, required.
3. Size of proper fitting gas mask.
4. Date Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1 ordered and date issued.

- (2) A copy of the prescription and frame measurements of Spectacles, Commercial Type, and/or lettered position required of Eyeglass, Gas Mask, M-1, will be given to the individual concerned, and he will be instructed to keep this copy on his person at all times.



GUY B. DENIT

Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Theatre Surgeon

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